report of September, 1987 has recommended Mass Rapid Transit System on seleted corridors to meet the growing transport requirements of Delhi. They have also recommended setting up of a Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority to plan, coordinate, integrate, efficiently manage and develop, various sub-systems of transport.

Airport at Shirdi

*59. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to open an Airport near Shirdi, a pilgrimage centre in Maharashtra and connect it with Vayudoot services;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No demand has been received for an airport at Shirdi from any operator. Shirdi is already being catered to by Nasik airport located 70 kilometres away. Apart from this, the National Airports Authority does not have adequate resources to finance even its ongoing schemes, so the possibility of finding resources to finance development of a new airport is extremely remote.

Girl students in Navodaya Vidyalayas

*60. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of girls who have been admitted to Navodaya Vidyalayas so far; and

(b) the steps taken to increase their number?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) The percentage of girls selected for admission to Navodaya Vidyalayas so far is 18 per cent.

(b) The scheme envisages that efforts will be made to ensure that atleast one-third of the students in each Navodaya Vidyalaya are girls. A separate hostel for girls and Lady Warden are already provided towards this end. Wider publicity to make the rural parents aware of the salient features of the scheme is proposed to be given to attract more girls for admission into the Navodaya Vidyalayas.

Flight between Trivandrum and the Andamans

236. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a pressing demand for introduction of a flight between Trivandrum and the Andamans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (e) A few requests have been received for connecting Trivandrum with Andamans. The capacity presently provided between Mainland (i.e. from Madras/ Calcutta) and Andamans is considered adequate to meet the traffic demand. Besides, there is acute shortage of capacity in Indian Airlines.